Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-14 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 DODE-00 SY-05 SSO-00 INRE-00 /052 W
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O R 2117142 NOV 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0365
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 9209

DEPARTMENT FOR ARA/ECA'S JIM BUMPUS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: 1970 DISAPPEARANCES

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION REGARDING THE FOLLOWING NUMBER OF DISAPPEARANCES THROUGH OCTOBER 1978: (THE DATA CORRESPONDS TO WHEN THE DISAPPEARANCE TOOK PLACE.)

JANUARY	35
FEBRUARY	31
MARCH	36
APRIL	31
MAY	74
JUNE	44
JULY	47
AUGUST	46
SEPTEMBER	22
OCTOBER	17

2. COMMENT: IN EVALUATING DISAPPEARANCE STATISTICS
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THE USUAL CAVEAT REGARDING THE TIME LAG IN REPORTING

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE 4/26/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☒ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE [illegible]☐
PA or FOI [illegible]

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DISAPPEARANCES SHOULD BE KEPT IN MIND. THE TIME LAG DISPARITY IS MAGNIFIED IN THE ABOVE DATA BY A RECENT UPSURGE IN REPORTING TO THE EMBASSY OF OLDER CASES, INCLUDING MANY FROM THE FIRST HALF OF 1976 FROM INTERIOR CITIES.

3. THE ANTI-SUBVERSIVE OPERATIONS IN MAY JUST PRIOR TO THE JUNE WORLD CUP FOOTBALL MATCHES MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE UPSURGE REGISTERED IN THAT MONTH.

4. IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ROUGHLY A THIRTY PERCENT DROP IN DISAPPEARANCES FROM THE PREVIOUS THREE MONTHS, ALLOWING FOR A LAG IN REPORTING CASES TO THE EMBASSY. TWO EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN OFFERED BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES FOR THIS DROP IN DISAPPEARANCES. A SENIOR NAVY OFFICIAL COMMENTED RECENTLY THAT HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS HAD IMPROVED AS ANTI-SUBVERSIVE OPERATIVES WERE RUNNING OUT OF TARGETS. ANOTHER SOURCE HAS SUGGESTED THAT TRANSFER OF MILITARY PERSONNEL BACK TO REGULAR UNITS AS PART OF THE CHILEAN BUILDUP WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REDUCTION.

5. ALTHOUGH THE NUMBER OF RECENT DISAPPEARANCES IS DOWN, THE OPERATIONS APPEAR TO BE CONTINUING AGAINST SOFT IDEOLOGICAL TARGETS. WITH ONE EXCEPTION, THE ARREST OF AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER OF SOCIALIST WORKER PARTY MEMBERS IN ROSARIO, THERE HAVE BEEN NO REPORTED ILLEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST SUBVERSIVE TARGETS. THE CASES REPORTED TO THE EMBASSY TO HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS APPEAR TO BE THE SAME TYPES OF WORKING CLASS AND PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE
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WITH PAST CONNECTIONS WITH LEFTIST OR PERONIST ORGANIZATIONS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE PAST. END COMMENT.
CASTRO

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